

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10091 271431Z

51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 RSR-01 /106 W
----- 063064

R 271115Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3920

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS BEIRUT 10091

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR LY EG

SUBJ: QADHAFI PESSIMISTIC ON MERGER PROSPECTS

1. INDEPENDENT DAILY AN NAHAR (AUG 27) REPORTED CAIRO CORRESPONDENT FU'AD MATAR INTERVIEW WITH COL. QADHAFI ON PURPOSE AND PROSPECTS OF PRESENT SURPRISE TRIP TO CAIRO. QADHAFI SAID HE IN CAIRO "TO SEE PRES. SADAT" AND TO EXPEDITE EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT ON MERGER FORMULA AND MECHANISMS OF REFERENDUM SINCE EGYPT HAD NOT REPLIED TO LATEST LIBYAN OVERTURES DESPITE APPROACHING SEPT. 1 DEADLINE.

2. QADHAFI SAID HE HAD OFFERED SADAT TWO FORMULI: THAT SADAT DRAFT AND PRESENT A MERGER PROPOSAL TO BE VOTED ON IN EACH COUNTRY, OR EGYPT AND LIBYA EACH SUBMIT PROPOSITION, WITH POPULAR REFERENDUM TO DETERMINE WHICH MORE ACCEPTABLE. QADHAFI NOTED THE ANTICIPATED EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS WOULD NOT GAIN LARGE APPROVAL, BUT THE MASSES, WITH THEIR "FULL KNOWLEDGE OF TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS" SHOULD DECIDE. SADAT IN TURN PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE PREPARE MERGER PLAN ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 10091 271431Z

GOVERNMENTS, WHICH QADHAFI REJECTED AS "NOT POSSIBLE

BECAUSE OF NUMEROUS POINTS OF DISSENTION."

3. QADHAFI CLAIMED SUCCESS OR FAILURE RESTS WITH SADAT,
WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE SHOULD SEPT. 1 PASS WITHOUT
MERGER. QADHAFI OBSERVED NO ONE KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN
SEPT. 1, ALTHOUGH HE AND ENTOURAGE PESSIMISTIC AS TO
PROSPECTS.
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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NNN

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